

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application. Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,298,128 to Ramey et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,396,906 Kaplan. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In response, independent claim 1 has been further limited to “receiving a search term from a searcher.” Independent claims 9 and 13 have been similarly limited. Support for the additional claim limitation may be found in the example of paragraph [0050] of the specification where a searcher implicitly provides the key word “gasket” as a search term.

Claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20 are now clearly differentiated over the combination of Ramey et al. and Kaplan. At best, Ramey et al. simply matches attributes of messages. Kaplan fails to provide any mechanism for searching stored contact data.

Together, the combination of Ramey et al. and Kaplan fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of the method step (or of apparatus) for “receiving a search term from a searcher” or “wherein the contact data is searched for at least one item of information based upon the search term.” Since the combination fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of this claim element, the rejections are now improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ramey et

al. in view of Kaplan and U.S. Pat. Appl. No. US 2002/0138296 to Holmes, Jr. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It may be noted in this regard that Holmes, Jr., as with Ramey et al. and Kaplan, fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of the method step of (or apparatus for) "receiving a search term from a searcher" or "wherein the contact data is searched for at least one item of information based upon the search term." Since the combination fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of this claim element, the rejections are now improper and should be withdrawn.

Closing Remarks

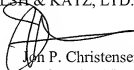
For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Primary Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Christensen", is written over a horizontal line.

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